**NACFB Commercial Lender Awards 2023**

Please use this form as a template to collate your submission information. To enter this category please submit all information [here](https://commerciallenderawards.co.uk/submit).

**The deadline for all entries is 17.00 on Friday 8th September 2023**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Submission category | **Business Bank of the Year** | | |
| NACFB Patron name |  | | |
| Primary contact first name |  | Surname |  |
| Primary contact email |  | | |
| Job title |  | | |
| Company website |  | | |
| Company LinkedIn |  | | |
| Company Twitter handle |  | | |
| Contact telephone |  | | |

**Award submission (max 300-words)**

Please draft your award submission below. Further guidance and overview of judging criteria can be found overleaf.

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| All entrants have a **maximum of 300-words** in which to convince the judges that they are worthy of winning this award  The NACFB have compiled ten top tips for an award-winning entry [here](https://commerciallenderawards.co.uk/submission-tips)  Information regarding this year’s judging process can be found [here](https://commerciallenderawards.co.uk/process) |
| Secure a table for this year’s event on **Thursday 30th November 2023** online [here](https://commerciallenderawards.co.uk/book) |

**Submission guidance**

Amidst the diverse landscape of commercial lending, the high street banks continue to play a pivotal role in providing vital financing to small businesses across the UK. Renowned for their ability to offer competitive pricing, these banks are a trusted source of funding for brokers seeking workable solutions to empower SMEs in the face of economic turbulence. The Business Bank of the Year award celebrates and recognises those exceptional banks that have excelled in partnering with the broker community, enhancing intermediary interactions, and delivering financial excellence to help SMEs prosper.

This prestigious award category welcomes applications from well-established high street banks as well as other innovative banks that have made a significant impact on the SME lending space. The judges seek banks that have demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting businesses of all sizes, from start-ups to established enterprises, by providing flexible and tailored financing solutions.

Outstanding contenders will have fostered close and fruitful collaborations with brokers, ensuring a seamless and efficient process from loan proposal to disbursement. These banks will not only have a comprehensive range of lending products but also a deep understanding of the unique challenges faced by SMEs in various industries.

The judges will be keenly interested in banks that have displayed a customer-centric approach, going beyond financial transactions to actively contribute to the growth and success of the businesses they serve. Evidence of successful loan applications, positive customer feedback, and case studies of SMEs that have thrived with the bank's support will be instrumental in substantiating their impact on the business community.

Furthermore, the winning bank should demonstrate a commitment to responsible lending, ensuring that their financing solutions empower businesses while safeguarding their long-term financial interests. Ethical practices, sustainable lending policies, and financial education initiatives for SMEs will earn extra commendations from the discerning panel of judges.

In their award submission, banks should highlight how they have innovatively adapted to the evolving needs of SMEs in these turbulent economic times. Testimonials from brokers and businesses, along with data showcasing the bank's positive contribution to SME growth and stability, will enhance the strength of their application.

**Entry criteria**

* Entry to the Commercial Lender Awards is only open to NACFB lender Patrons, supplier Partners, and any personnel therein.
* Winners are selected based on the combined insight and votes from the judging panel and NACFB Members. The judging panel is made up of representatives from recognised industry stakeholders and includes an NACFB representative. NACFB Members will be invited to vote on the shortlist to select final winners. Winners for each category will be awarded based on a combined view of both the submission and Member voting.
* Entries can be for any event, campaign or initiative which has taken place between September 2022 and present.
* The deadline for all entries is **17.00** on **Friday 8th September 2023.**
* Shortlisted entrants will be notified by email no later than **Monday 9th October 2023.**
* The winners will be announced at the NACFB’s Commercial Lender Awards ceremony on **Thursday 30th November 2023** at the **Westminster Park Plaza, London**.
* An activity may be entered in more than one category, but each entry must be accompanied by an entry form. There is no limit to the number of entries one organisation can make.
* Judges reserve the right, without prior consent of the entrant, to move entries to different categories if they feel it is more appropriate.
* The judges’ and Members’ decision are final, no correspondence will be entered into, and no reasons given for decisions.
* All information provided to judges will be used solely for the purposes of assessing the entries. Any potentially sensitive information will not be made public.
* Winners may state in advertising and promotional material that they have won, but they must state the year the award was won.